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REPORT   
CD NO.

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COUNTRY China  
SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, grain storage  
HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper  
WHERE PUBLISHED Tientsin  
DATE PUBLISHED 15, 22 Jun 1953  
LANGUAGE Chinese

DATE OF INFORMATION 1953  
DATE DIST. 25 Sep 1953  
NO. OF PAGES 3  
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Ta Kung Pao

STORED GRAIN SPOILS IN SOUTHWEST CHINA;  
WU-HSI INITIATES INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM

Summary: Large quantities of grain are spoiling in Southwest warehouses. Responsibility for this condition is due to poor leadership of the cadres and an ineffective insect prevention program.

The Wu-hsi Grain Company workers are investigating various methods of insect control.

INSECTS AND MILDEW DAMAGE -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 15 Jun 53

Since the beginning of summer, the problem of protecting public grain against heat, mildew, insects, and rats has increased in importance.

Of the more than 300 million catties of grain stored in the Lu-hsien Special Administrative District, Szechwan, more than 100 million catties retained moisture exceeding the standard for safe moisture content and more than 200 million catties have become infested with insects. In the Lu-chou and Ch'ien-ts'ao-pa granaries, mildew damaged over 730,000 catties of grain. In the Ch'ien-ts'ao-pa and the Erh-lang-t'an granaries, insect and mildew damaged more than 150,000 catties of grain. The P'eng-lai granary in P'eng-ch'i Hsien and the Ts'ang-shan granary in Chung-chiang Hsien suffered damage from insects and mildew totaling over 190,000 catties; of this amount, insects damaged 50,000 catties.

Based on incomplete figures from eight special administrative districts in Yunnan, heat-and-insect-damaged grain amounted to more than 11,200,000 catties and mildewed soured grain to more than 998,000 catties. According to the March figures in 79 hsien in Kweichow there were 161,400,000 catties of mildewed old grain and nonmarketable mixed grains. Other areas also have this problem in varying degrees.

STAT

- 1 -

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How did this problem develop?

First, it is a question of the cadres. At present, the thinking of the basic cadre is very confused. In Lung-ch'ang Hsien, 90 percent of the cadres in the food bureau want to study and, after study, hope to be assigned to other duties. Of the eight cadres in the Ch'ang-shou No 7 food warehouse, there are six who are not content with the work. Similarly, nine of the 35 cadres in Ts'en-kung Hsien are not content.

The importance of this problem does not rest only on the discontent of the cadres but also on the bureaucratism of the leaders who are so busy with their own affairs that they pay no attention to the cadres' thinking. Generally, cadres are too busy to study, but in some areas the leading comrades state that study is no good and spend time in criticism and self-examination and thus there is no accomplishment of duties. In some areas, the leadership of the food cadres is opposed by others who refuse to adopt timely corrective measures.

Second, food inspectors do not make inspections according to a schedule and make examinations only superficially. This has gone on to such an extent that sealed granaries are not inspected for long periods of time. For example, the storage personnel of the Kuan-yin Hsiang Granary in P'eng-shan Hsien so neglected their duties that the corn under their care mildewed, the sprouts on the top layer attaining a growth of two and a half inches.

Third, there has not been a good program for insect control. The program in the Southwest has not been put into effect because certain leading cadres are not interested in the study of storage methods. For example, in northern Szechwan the problem was recognized but several types of local methods were used with great expenditure of manpower and money but with poor results. The Southwest area established courses in the study of destructive insects, chemical testing laboratories, and insect and plant specimen laboratories but little progress was made. Many suggestions made by cadres were ignored on the upper level. The result is that the laboratories have been abolished and Szechwan now has no definite program of insect control.

WU-HSI GRAIN COMPANY WORKERS COMBAT INSECT DAMAGE -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 22 Jun 53

The grain storing responsibility of the Wu-hsi Municipal Grain Company is comparatively great, and it has the additional duty of periodically transporting the grain of the south Kiangsu area. As a result, insect control work has been poor thus influencing adversely the storage conditions of large areas. But through this company's leadership and the positive efforts of each granary worker, there has been a measure of success in fighting insects. The company recommends the following methods:

1. Using DDT and 666 spray in all empty granaries; spraying evenly and covering all surfaces.
2. Removing all old and dirty tarpaulins; replacing them with new or clean ones every 3-6 months.
3. Replacing and sterilizing of matting.
4. Instituting sanitation programs; granaries should be thoroughly cleaned twice each month.
5. Using lime paste to seal cracks and openings in granaries.

- 2 -

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6. Sterilizing and cleaning all work implements.
7. Using insect powder; in most cases 666 is recommended.
8. Using high temperatures to exterminate insects; storing grain after sunning while it is still warm causes insects to come to surface.
9. Removing insects; especially those on the surface.
10. Covering the grain with a layer of ashes  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 1 inch thick to seal the granaries. This is more effective in keeping the grain dry than in preventing insect damage.

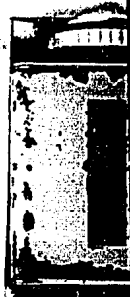
Besides the above methods, the company is also doing research and inventing new methods of insect control. For example, sunning the upper layer of grain, sifting and cleaning it by beating it with grass switches to kill the larvae of the caterpillars and the Indian ants.

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- 3 -

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